

NOVAC, ROBERT J. 77

15A

CONF007407

DYKES\_I\_005278

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET  
REGISTRATION AND SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATE May 17, 1977

FULL NAME Robert J. Novac

(No initials if you can possibly get full name)

ADDRESS Ankeny, Iowa

CITY Ankeny STATE Iowa ZIP CODE 50021

DATE OF BIRTH XX (This is important and should be exact)

APPROXIMATE AGE 31 (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)

RELIGION Methodist NATIONALITY caucasian

OCCUPATION ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Teacher

EDUCATION \_\_\_\_\_

WEIGHT 190 COLOR white HEIGHT 5'7"

COLOR OF HAIR Brown COLOR OF EYES Brown

OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OR INTERESTS \_\_\_\_\_

MARRIED OR SINGLE x CHILDREN no children  
(Number, ages, and names, if possible)

WIFE'S NAME none

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

<u>UNIT #</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>DATE REGISTERED</u>	<u>DATE RESIGNED</u>
Troop 182	Ankeny,	Iowa	S. M		Feb. 1, 1977

SPECIAL RECOGNITION \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDED FOR CONFIDENTIAL FILE FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONVICTION OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT     | <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OFFICIAL CHARGES OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT (REVIEW) | <input type="checkbox"/> UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORTS |

SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND INDIVIDUAL FOR CONFIDENTIAL FILE AND LIST SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

NOTED  
AUG 25 1977  
JOSEPH L. ANGLIM

Signed

SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Council

CONF007408

DYKES\_I\_005279

September 2, 1977

Mr. Robert M. Mills  
Scout Executive  
Mid-Iowa Council, No.177

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Robert J. Novac

Dear Mr. Mills:

Thank you for informing us of the sentence Mr. Novac received. We have now completed this case and placed this man on file. This information will support our action. We appreciate your efforts in this area.

Sincerely,

Paul I. Ernst, Director  
Registration & Subscription Service

af

CONF007409

DYKES\_I\_005280



# MID IOWA COUNCIL

## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

1659 E. Euclid  
Phone 515-266-2135

P.O. Box 3376  
E. 14th St. Station  
Des Moines, Iowa 50316

August 25, 1977

Mr. Paul Ernst  
Registration Division  
Boy Scouts of America  
North Brunswick New Jersey 08902

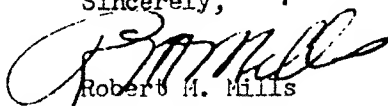
Dear Mr. Ernst:

Reference: Robert J. Novak

In answer to your latest inquiry, Mr. Robert J. Novak - former scoutmaster from the Mid-Iowa Council has pleaded guilty to a charge of child molestation and has received in the district a 15 year sentence at the state penitentiary. He is serving that sentence at Ft. Madison according to our latest information.

If you need additional information or would like to have copies of the court record, please advise.

Sincerely,

  
Robert M. Mills  
Scout Executive

RMM:be

CONF007410

DYKES\_I\_005281



A program for Cub Scouts, Scouts, and Explorers

National Office—Boy Scouts of America

North Brunswick, New Jersey 08902  
Telephone: 201 249-6000  
TWX 710-480-6262

May 27, 1977

Mr. Robert M. Mills  
Scout Executive  
Mid-Iowa Council, No.177

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL  
Re: Robert J. Novac

Dear Mr. Mills:

Thank you for the confidential record sheet and newspaper clipping concerning the above Scouter. We have added this information to his file. Please let us know what sentence this man receives. This is important information and will certainly help support our action of placing him on the Confidential File.

Sincerely,

  
Paul I. Ernst, Director  
Registration & Subscription Service

af

8/10/77

ENTERED PLEA OF "GUILTY" TO THREE ALLEGATIONS  
OF LEWD & LASCIVIOUS CONDUCT. SENTENCED TO 5  
YEARS IN STATE PENITENTIARY ON EACH COUNT, CONSEC-  
UTIVELY. BEGAN SERVING 15 YEAR SENTENCE IN LATE  
JUNE, 1977, AT STATE PENITENTIARY, MADISON, IOWA.  
NO APPEAL TO SENTENCE INDICATED TO DATE.

  
Field Director

CONF007411

DYKES\_I\_005282



# MID IOWA COUNCIL

## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

1659 E. Euclid  
Phone 515-266-2135

P.O. Box 3376  
E. 14th St. Station  
Des Moines, Iowa 50316

June 16, 1977

Mr. Paul Ernst  
Registration Service  
Boy Scouts of America  
North Brunswick, New Jersey 08902

Dear Paul:

Enclosed is the current file on the case regarding Robert Novak recently placed on the restricted list and formally a scoutmaster here in the Mid-Iowa Council.

The only thing pending now is the sentencing which is to take place sometime in July. We will mail the results of the sentencing when it is available.

Best regards,

Robert M. Mills

Scout Executive

RMM/ca  
enc: clippings

CONF007412

DYKES\_I\_005283

May 27, 1977

Mr. Robert M. Mills  
Scout Executive  
Mid-Iowa Council, No.177

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL  
Re: Robert J. Novac

Dear Mr. Mills:

Thank you for the confidential record sheet and newspaper clipping concerning the above Scouter. We have added this information to his file. Please let us know what sentence this man received. This is important information and will certainly help support our action of placing him on the Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul I. Ernst, Director  
Registration & Subscription Service

af

CONF007413

DYKES\_I\_005284

4/6/77

## 2 Ankeny men deny sex charges

By Diane Graham

Two former Ankeny school teachers pleaded innocent Wednesday in Polk County District Court to a total of 20 counts of engaging in lascivious acts with boys under the age of 16.

Robert Novak, 31, of Ankeny, was named Tuesday in a 12-count grand jury indictment alleging that he did "fondle or touch" 12 boys in a sexual manner between January, 1975, and January, 1977.

John W. Buck, 25, also of Ankeny, was indicted Tuesday on eight counts of committing the same offense with eight other boys between June, 1974, and November, 1976.

Novak, who taught junior high school social studies, has resigned from his teaching post. Buck, who was a high school music teacher, has been fired, according to officials in the county attorney's office.

### Johnston criticized

Both men appeared before District Judge Ray Hanrahan Wednesday accompanied by their attorneys, William Kutmus and Alan Anderson.

Kutmus, who is representing Buck, criticized County Attorney Dan Johnston for revealing details of the grand jury indictments to the news media.

Kutmus said: "I just think the secrecy of the grand jury was violated and Dan (Johnston) is trying this case in the news media."

Anderson, who represents Novak, also said he was "extremely surprised" with Johnston's behavior in connection with the cases.

Wednesday, Johnston called the statements by Kutmus and Anderson "not true." He said he never commented on actual grand jury testimony, but instead referred to what his office's investigation showed.

"I was reporting the activities of this office on an important public issue to the public and will continue to do that," he said, adding that he will not conduct his office in secret.

He said his comments were not an attempt to pre-judge the defendants prejudice or their trials.

Johnston met with media repre-



John Buck



Robert Novak

sentatives Tuesday in his office to discuss the case.

Johnston said then that the indictments allege that Novak and Buck used their respective positions as Boy Scout troop leader and church choir director to make contact with young boys.

Johnston said the alleged violations occurred at the homes of the defendants.

Novak could not be reached for comment Wednesday on the allegations and Buck refused to comment.

### Trials in May

Novak, whose trial has been set for May 23, is free on \$10,000 bond. Buck, whose trial is scheduled for May 11, was being held Wednesday morning in lieu of \$10,000 bond.

Buck has been relieved of his choir duties at the First United Methodist Church of Ankeny, and Novak has been asked to resign from the scouting position he has held for five years.

Novak and Buck taught school in Ankeny for about two years.

CONF007414

DYKES\_I\_005285



## Scouts ask ex-teacher to resign

By Amy Craig  
and Jerald Heth

One of two teachers who recently left the Ankeny school system was asked last month to resign as a Boy Scout troop leader, a Boy Scout official said Tuesday.

Robert Mills, executive director of the Mid-Iowa Council of Boy Scouts of America, said he received four letters from parents of junior high aged boys concerning Robert Novak, 39.

Because of those complaints, Novak, a junior high social studies teacher, was asked to resign from the scouting position he had held for five years.

Similar complaints, said Ankeny Police Chief Dennis Ballard, reached police in mid-February. "Everything we dug up, we turned over to the county attorney's office for a grand jury investigation," Ballard said.

Robert Blink, assistant Polk County attorney in charge of prosecuting sex crimes, said the grand jury will hear evidence about the conditions under which two teachers left the school district.

Ankeny School Supt. Keith Hopkins said Novak and John Buck, 25, a high school music teacher, are the only two teachers leaving the district as of now.

Buck, who also was choir director for junior and senior high youth and a leader of a senior youth group at the First United Methodist Church of Ankeny, was relieved of his church duties as of Mar. 5, the Rev. Hugh Stone, an associate minister, said Tuesday. He refused to disclose the circumstances surrounding that action.

Both Buck and Novak were suspended from their teaching duties in mid-February after school officials received complaints about the two teachers.

The Ankeny School Board voted unanimously Monday night to fire Buck, citing "just cause."

Hopkins said that the school board would not provide Buck with any recommendation for future jobs.

The school board also decided to petition the Iowa Professional Teaching Practices Commission to investigate whether Buck should maintain his teaching certificate.

Buck said Tuesday, "I have no idea what parents are concerned about." He said he has not been involved in any incidents alleged by Ankeny citizens.

Buck, who said he submitted his resignation for "personal reasons," declined further comments. In his resignation letter Buck said his "career as a teacher would be better pursued elsewhere."

Novak's resignation was accepted last week at a board meeting attended by more than 100 parents. Novak stated in his resignation letter that he was leaving "for his own best interests." Novak was in Chicago, Ill., and unavailable for comment Tuesday.

Hopkins said Tuesday he had "substantial evidence" to recommend that the school board fire Buck immediately, rather than accept the resignation Buck submitted twice.

Hopkins said state law prevents him and other officials from saying why Buck was fired other than "It's in the best interests of the Ankeny school district."

Board President Dr. Lawrence

DM Reuter  
3/15/77

## Grand jury to investigate school case

By CHUCK OFFENBURGER

Register Staff Writer

The Polk County Grand Jury will be asked this week to investigate "the circumstances under which two teachers are leaving the Ankeny school system," an assistant Polk County Attorney said Monday.

Rob Blink, whose assignment in the county attorney's office is the prosecution of sex crimes, refused to name the teachers and said that "the parameters of the investigation have not been nailed down yet."

Blink said he was assigned to the case after the Ankeny Police Department turned over results of its investigation to the county attorney's office.

Ankeny School Supt. Keith Hopkins said Monday the only two teachers leaving the school system as of now are Robert Novak, 30, a junior high school social studies teacher, and John Buck, 25, a high school music teacher.

Hopkins said that neither of the two has been teaching in the school system since late February.

Novak, who also has been a Boy Scout leader, earlier this month submitted his resignation to the Ankeny school board, saying he was leaving "for my own best interests." At a board meeting Mar. 3, the board accepted Novak's resignation and placed a Feb. 18 date on it.

Buck, who also has been the director of a youth church choir in the community, submitted his resignation too. However, just prior to that same board meeting, he withdrew the resignation.

Supt. Hopkins subsequently notified Buck that he was being suspended.

A special meeting of the board was called Monday night, primarily to allow Hopkins to recommend to the board members that Buck be fired immediately.

Prior to the meeting, however, Buck resubmitted his letter of resignation, in which he said, "I feel my career as a teacher would be better pursued elsewhere."

The four board members present, after a 30-minute executive session, first voted unanimously not to accept the resignation and then voted, also unanimously, to fire Buck immediately.

Board president Dr. Lawrence Gray said that in the executive session, board members "heard evidence" to support Supt. Hopkins' recommendation for the termination.

Later, Hopkins said state law prevents him and other officials from saying why Buck was fired other than "it's in the best interests of the Ankeny school district."

Gray told the 10 citizens present that "due to the law, there is very little we can tell you people."

"The law was written to protect the reputations of the people involved," he said.

In one other action involving Buck, the board voted unanimously to "file a petition with the Iowa Professional Teaching Practices Commission," an agency of the state Department of Public Instruction, "to investigate the certification" of Buck.

Both Novak and Buck were in their second years at the Ankeny schools, according to Hopkins. Both are single, Hopkins said. State records indicate both are Drake University graduates.

Ankeny Police Chief Dennis Ballard said earlier Monday that his department's investigation was initiated "after we got some complaints from some concerned citizens."

Ballard would not discuss the nature of the complaints.

He said the investigation centered only "on the one teacher whose resignation has been accepted by the school board."

Ballard said his officers "investigated to the point where we thought

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DYKES\_I\_005287

## Ex-teacher pleads guilty -in sex case

By Diane Graham

Robert Novak, a former Ankeny schoolteacher, pleaded guilty Friday in Polk County District Court to three counts of committing lascivious acts with a child under age 18.

Judge Richard Strickler set sentencing for June 24. Novak is free on \$10,000 bond.

Novak was indicted last month by a Polk County grand jury on 12 separate counts involving 12 boys. But in a plea bargaining arrangement, County Attorney Dan Johnston said he will recommend dismissal of the other nine counts.

Johnston said the guilty plea was a "very good resolution" of the case, since the parents of the young victims did not want their sons to testify in court.

Johnston said his office refused to allow Novak to plead to only one charge, saying he wanted to show it was more than "just an incidental occurrence."

Since judges nearly always issue sentences to run concurrently on each count, Novak probably will receive the same sentence as he would if convicted on all 12 counts, Johnston said.

Novak was indicted along with another Ankeny teacher, John Buck, 25, who is awaiting trial on eight counts of committing the same offense.

Novak, 31, allegedly did "fondle or touch" the boys in a sexual manner between January, 1975, and January, 1977, according to the indictment. Buck allegedly committed the offenses between June, 1974, and November, 1976.

Novak taught junior high school social studies, but has resigned. Johnston said Novak used his position as a Boy Scout troop leader to make contact with the boys.

March 11, 1977

Mr. Robert M. Mills  
Scout Executive  
Mid-Iowa Council, No.177

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Re: Robert J. Novac

Dear Mr. Mills:

In response to your letter of March 4, we are enclosing a confidential record sheet. In addition to this completed record sheet we would appreciate a copy of the police or court records concerning the above Scouter. We would also like to know the disposition of this case after it goes to trial. This material is important for future reference purposes and will help strengthen our position of placing this man on our file.

Sincerely,

Paul I. Ernst, Director  
Registration & Subscription Service

af  
Encl.

CONF007418

DYKES\_I\_005289



# MID IOWA COUNCIL INC, - 177

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
4127 University Avenue  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50311  
PHONE 279-3648

March 4, 1977

Registration Service  
National Council  
Boy Scouts of America  
North Brunswick, N.J. 08902

Re: Information regarding  
confidential files.

Gentlemen:

This letter is to report on the misconduct of Robert J. Novac currently registered as scoutmaster of troop #182, sponsored by the United Methodist Mens Club of Ankeny, Iowa 50021.

Mr. Novac's current address is 410 S.E. 11th St., Ankeny, Iowa 50021. He began as scoutmaster in 1972 and prior to that was registered as a member of the troop committee. Mr. Novac is single and approximately 30 years of age. His separation should be effective March 1, 1977.

Statements of individuals involved are enclosed for your record. You should know that there has been formal charges lodged against Mr. Novac and it is now pending a grand jury investigation and if the investigation justifies it will be turned over to the court for criminal action.

If you need additional information, please advise.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Mills  
Scout Executive



Scouting today's a lot more than you think.



CONF007419

DYKES\_I\_005290

March 1, 1977  
[REDACTED]

Boy Scouts of America  
Des Moines, Iowa

Dear Mr. Mills,

I am requesting the Boy Scouts of America take the necessary action to prevent Mr. Robert Novak, former scoutmaster of the Ankeny Iowa troop 182 from ever holding another position of any authority in the scouting organization.

The reason for this request comes from the fact that Mr. Novak did what I call or consider immoral and/or unnatural sex acts with my son.

The incidents occurred over the last two years. The specific acts performed on my son were a nude physical for a physical fitness award in Mr. Novak's bedroom, a massage on his bed, my son was clothed, a pulling down of my sons pants and other incidents of hand holding and petting.

Please confirm this with the Ankeny police department. My son and I gave them this information when they were conducting an interview of the troop. The police department contact was Mr. Priest.

I will be glad to discuss this matter with anyone of authority in the scouting organization. My intention is to prevent Mr. Robert Novak from ever being in a position of influence over any young man.

Signed  
[REDACTED]

CONF007420

DYKES\_I\_005291

Feb. 26, 1977

This was written by my son  
meaning his Scoutmaster, Robert  
Quak. I [redacted] he is reluctant  
to discuss details of this incident  
with me and I haven't pressed  
the issue.

[redacted] boy, however, informed  
me that this has happened on  
at least two occasions.

School authorities have been  
notified of the situation and  
have individually questioned  
the boys involved. Since this  
time, Mr. Quak has not been  
in particular school.

Happily, Mr. Quak will  
be banned from beginning  
involvement in scouting elsewhere,  
demonstrating other boys from  
a similar experience.

[redacted]

CONF007421

DYKES\_I\_005292

[REDACTED]  
March 1, 1977

Mid-Iowa Council  
Boy Scouts of America  
Des Moines, Iowa

Re: Sexual molestation of [REDACTED]  
by Mr. Robert Morak

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find a statement  
by my son regarding the sexual mis-  
conduct committed him by Mr. Bob Morak.  
I am sure it is quite brief. He neither  
wants to discuss this, nor did he per-  
mit me to read what he had written.

The following information was  
obtained by asking him direct ques-  
tions which would be answered with

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DYKES\_I\_005293



1. Acting in the capacity of Scoutmaster of [REDACTED] troop, Mr. Novak had [REDACTED] to his home on several occasions to help him with his scout work.

2. On three or four occasions [REDACTED] was taken to Mr. Novak's upstairs bedroom (that's where his desk is), and told to remove his clothing so that Mr. Novak could give him a "treatment" to relax him.

3. Mr. Novak then proceeded to masturbate my son; I do not know to what extent.

I hope this is the information you need, and that I can be assured of your keeping this confidential.

Thank you for your cooperation.

[REDACTED]

CONF007423

DYKES\_I\_005294

( Late last summer I went to my  
Scoutmaster's house to talk, but it was  
not my idea. Once we were there we  
went to the room and I sat beside  
him desk. The other friends and he said  
you are doing a great job but  
you have some things to do  
and so he went and he showed  
my parts and walked to the room and  
so on. He said some things about  
to be that what he was in his  
room and just before he left us.



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